kilometer and lower. Here primarily are indigenous peoples, who wander through the vast, immense land as reindeer breeders and hunters. The sources of food in the sea, however, have also lured many people to the coast, on which, at greater or smaller distances from one another, there can be found again and again fishing settlements inhabited by natives, often intermixed with Russians. In recent times fishing kolkhoz have been founded according to plan in all the favorable places, and they have been occupied by Russians. The most important places are at the same time starting points for land routes into the interior; this applies to Ayan, Okhotsk, Magadan, and Gizhiga on the Okhotsk coast. Kamchatka has increased its population greatly in recent years because of the great rise in fishing and hunting of sea animals. In 1950 the total population was approximately 130,000, which was five times as much as it was in 1926. However, the main stream of immigrants came here, too, to the coastal places, especially Petropavlovsk, Ust'-Kamchatsk, and Bol'sheretsk. Despite the important growth in population, the density of population in Kamchatka has scarcely reached 1 person per square kilometer.

/118/ Sakhalin, too, like Kamchatka has had a large immigration. However, here the immigration is explained above all by the development of the petroleum, coal, and fish industries, all of which are located near the coast; accordingly the population is compressed into these areas, while the uneconomic interior is in large measure uninhabited. Only in the valley of the central depression are agricultural settlements encountered. Southern Sakhalin, which was Japanese until 1945, also shows somewhat the same picture in the distribution of its population. The number of inhabitants exceeds that of northern Sakhalin, but here, too, the population is compressed into the coastal area, whereas the interior, as in northern Sakhalin, is occupied for the most part only by small groups of old peoples such as the Olcha, the Oroki, the Gilyak, and the Ainu. In southern Sakhalin there were in 1940 still 1,500 Ainu, who in numbers rank above the other old peoples. The number of the other remnant peoples scarcely reaches 500. The evacuation of the Japanese has given the Soviet Union the task of filling the land with its own people, and, according to all information available, they have succeeded in this. In the process other people have moved in to the former Japanese settlements, but the spatial distribution remains the same. The numerical changes in the population will be discussed later. [166]

The data of the censuses from 1926 to 1939 are available for